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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Mali

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its twenty-ninth session from 15 to 26 January 2018. The review of Mali was held at the 4th meeting, on 16 January 2018. The delegation of Mali was headed by the Minister of Human Rights, Kadidia Sangaré Coulibaly. At its 10th meeting, held on 19 January 2018, the Working Group adopted the report on Mali.

2. On 10 January 2018, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Mali: Japan, Slovenia and South Africa.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Mali:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/29/MLI/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/29/MLI/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/29/MLI/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Brazil, Czechia, Germany, Liechtenstein, Portugal, Slovenia, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Mali through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The delegation of Mali explained that the submission of its national report for the third cycle of the universal periodic review had taken place in a particularly challenging context, characterized by insecurity, terrorism and transnational organized crime.

6. The report described the changes in Mali with regard to the promotion and protection of human rights over the past five years. It presented and analysed changes in the legal and institutional framework, follow-up to the recommendations and commitments made during the universal periodic review of 2013, achievements and best practices, and obstacles to the promotion and protection of human rights.

7. Legal and institutional developments had included the review and adoption of legislation and regulations, in particular the Act establishing the National Human Rights Commission, in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Paris Principles), and the Act amending the Constitution. After consulting the country's leaders, the President had decided to postpone holding a referendum.

8. The Human Rights Defenders Act, adopted by the National Assembly after considering the concerns of organizations for the defence of human rights, had recently been promulgated. The Act clearly defined the rights and responsibilities of human rights defenders and the measures the State must take to protect them.

9. The delegation highlighted the establishment of a ministry responsible exclusively for the promotion and protection of human rights and of an emergency programme for strengthening the justice system. It also noted the implementation of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali emanating from the Algiers process.

10. Mali was a de facto abolitionist country and observed a moratorium on the death penalty. No executions had been carried out since the 1980s. The death sentences that had been handed down had been systematically commuted to life imprisonment.

11. Significant action had been taken to combat impunity, including the trial of several members of the military junta that had mounted a coup d'état in March 2012, the conviction by the International Criminal Court of Ahmad Al Faqi Al Mahdi for war crimes in the north of Mali and the conviction by an assize court of Aliou Mahamane Touré, a former chief of the Islamic police, for serious human rights violations. Mali had also taken steps to prosecute members of the security forces implicated in human rights abuses and to support the establishment of an international commission of inquiry to investigate war crimes, crimes against humanity, sex crimes and other serious violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law. The Ministry of Justice, for example, had launched investigations in the regions where human rights violations had been reported by organizations for the defence of human rights, and the Minister had instructed the public prosecution services in Bamako and Mopti to open investigations into accusations made in a number of published reports against the armed forces and the security forces. In addition, a special police unit accompanied each company deployed in areas of conflict. Those units, made up of appropriately trained gendarmes and criminal investigation officers, were responsible for ensuring respect for human rights and international humanitarian law.

12. The delegation stated that the Government had embarked on a reform of the security sector aimed at addressing the issues and challenges related to terrorism and transnational crime. In that connection, it referred to the Military Guidance and Planning Act and the Internal Security Planning Act. The Government had also intensified its efforts to train and equip the military and had established a judicial office and units specializing in combating terrorism and organized crime. Lastly, it had strengthened cooperation by the Armed Forces of Mali, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), the forces of Operation Barkhane and the Group of Five for the Sahel in the fight against terrorism and transnational organized crime.

13. The lack of security had prevented many students in northern and central Mali from attending school. As a result, children from some communities had been transferred to other schools, and special examinations had been organized in the places where the children were located. Plans had also been made to take stronger security measures, in accordance with the Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict.

14. Two bills on the rights of women and children were being drafted: the first concerned gender-based violence, while the second concerned child protection. The enactment of those two bills would remove discriminatory provisions from the Personal and Family Code and criminalize female genital mutilation and other forms of gender-based violence.

15. Considerable efforts had been made to combat the worst forms of child labour, including the use of children in armed conflict. Child members of armed groups had received assistance, for example, within the framework of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration activities, which were a critical component of both the immediate stabilization of Mali and its short-, medium- and long-term development.

16. Improved cooperation with international human rights mechanisms had been facilitated by the establishment of a committee to monitor the preparation of the national report for the universal periodic review in 2017. In addition, an interministerial committee had been set up in 2009 to support the preparation of initial and periodic reports on the implementation of the international treaties ratified by Mali. In addition, the Government's programme of work for the first half of 2018 included plans for the establishment of a single mechanism for the preparation of reports and for follow-up to treaty body recommendations. The mechanism would work closely with the Directorate General for Human Rights, also to be established.

17. All those initiatives reflected the commitment of Mali to work for peace and national reconciliation while ensuring full respect for human rights.

18. In its current context of vulnerability, Mali nonetheless faced challenges, in particular security concerns and lack of financial resources.

19. Presidential, legislative and municipal elections had been held during the reporting period, which had also seen the culmination of the negotiations with armed groups that had led to the signature in 2015 of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali. Despite the prevailing insecurity, significant progress had been made in implementing the Agreement. The Agreement Monitoring Committee and the National Coordinating Committee for the Implementation of the Agreement — the latter having been superseded by the high representative of the President — had been put in place to facilitate the implementation of and follow-up to the commitments made with the various stakeholders.

20. Mali would respect all the commitments it had made as part of the Agreement, as it was convinced that there was no credible alternative to a peaceful path to a lasting settlement of the crisis. Given the challenges related to the implementation of the Agreement, Mali hoped to receive technical and financial assistance. National human rights institutions and civil society organizations deserved particular attention with regard to capacity-building and technical assistance in view of the role they were called upon to play in promoting and protecting human rights.

21. The delegation expressed appreciation for the invaluable efforts made by the international community to help Mali emerge from the multidimensional crisis and highlighted the excellent cooperation with the United Nations that had been made possible by MINUSMA and the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Mali, who had just made his ninth visit to the country.

22. Mali stood ready to cooperate fully with all special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council and undertook to give careful consideration to any requests for visits by such individuals. The Government had recently invited several special rapporteurs to visit Mali, including the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants and the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism.

23. Lastly, Mali reiterated its commitment to the universal periodic review.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

24. During the interactive dialogue, 78 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

25. Mauritania expressed appreciation for the efforts made by Mali to protect women's rights and to combat gender-based violence, extrajudicial executions and torture. It welcomed the State's commitment to the promotion of peace and national reconciliation and its efforts to ensure the enjoyment of the right to an adequate standard of living. Mauritania called on the international community to continue supporting Mali.

26. Mauritius welcomed the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission, in 2016, action plans for the national policy on human rights and for the national policy on transitional justice for the period 2017–2021, and measures to protect the rights of women and children. Mauritius supported the call made by Mali to the international community for capacity-building and technical assistance.

27. Mexico recognized the willingness of Mali to cooperate with the Independent Expert and trusted that such cooperation would be extended to all United Nations mechanisms. Mexico also welcomed the State's efforts to implement the peace agreement and the human rights and transitional justice policies.

28. Montenegro commended the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission. It noted that female genital mutilation was still a challenge, and regretted the lack of statistics and studies on gender-based violence and the lack of adequate resources to implement the national action plan to combat female genital mutilation. Montenegro noted concerns regarding the revised Personal and Family Code and encouraged Mali to amend it.

29. Morocco welcomed the engagement of Mali regarding the re-establishment of the rule of law, the fight against impunity, and human rights protection. It welcomed the creation of the National Human Rights Commission and the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission. Morocco encouraged Mali to continue its efforts against human trafficking.

30. Mozambique welcomed the efforts of Mali to implement the peace agreement. It praised Mali for the Constitutional review process undertaken with a view to bringing the Constitution into line with the provisions of the peace agreement. Mozambique noted that a moratorium on the death penalty was in place.

31. Namibia commended Mali for the progress that had been made despite the challenges posed by the conflict. Namibia welcomed the State's commendable human rights-related initiatives, including the establishment of a ministry responsible for human rights. Namibia urged the international community to assist Mali.

32. Nepal recognized the challenges faced by Mali in recent years owing to the armed conflict. It welcomed the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission and the Ministry of Human Rights and State Reform. While welcoming the transitional justice policy, Nepal indicated that combating female genital mutilation was crucial. Nepal stated that Mali deserved the support of the international community in its efforts.

33. The Netherlands welcomed the reform of the National Human Rights Commission. It regretted that no human rights perpetrators had been prosecuted. The Netherlands called on Mali to improve the state of prisons and how the defence and security forces acted in order to prevent violent extremist groups from gaining more ground in an already vulnerable environment.

34. Norway stated that the development of the human rights situation in Mali depended on all signatories to the peace agreement. Norway was particularly concerned by the continued impunity for violence against women, including female genital mutilation, and the disastrous effects of the crisis on the realization of the right to education.

35. Paraguay welcomed the cooperation of Mali with the Independent Expert. It encouraged Mali to continue fighting against the impunity of perpetrators of serious human rights and international humanitarian law violations. Paraguay expressed concerns regarding the persistence of harmful traditional practices and stereotypes and at the high number of victims of female genital mutilation.

36. Poland welcomed the adoption of the act aimed at promoting gender equality in access to appointed and elected positions. It expressed concern at reports that counter-terrorism operations by the Malian defence and security forces had led to human rights violations, including enforced disappearance and arbitrary detention.

37. Portugal welcomed the State's efforts to establish the National Human Rights Commission in line with the Paris Principles. It noted that Mali had a moratorium on executions. Portugal was concerned at reports of impunity.

38. The Republic of Korea expressed appreciation for the efforts made by Mali in setting up the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission and in strengthening its judicial system. It welcomed the cooperation of Mali with the international community in efforts to improve the situation in northern Mali. It supported the State's efforts through various programmes.

39. Rwanda commended Mali for its efforts to restore State authority on its territory. It encouraged Mali to enhance efforts to combat discrimination and violence against women, including by implementing relevant laws and eliminating any loopholes in national legislation that might undermine the protection of women's rights.

40. Senegal noted efforts by Mali to improve the human rights situation in the country despite the terrorist attacks. It welcomed measures to fight impunity, including in connection with violence against women and girls. Senegal welcomed the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission in accordance with the Paris Principles.

41. Sierra Leone welcomed the State's commitment regarding transitional justice and the establishment of the Ministry of Human Rights and State Reform and the National Human Rights Commission. It noted that Mali had requested technical assistance to address challenges in the implementation of the peace agreement, to draft reports and to implement recommendations made by treaty bodies and during the universal periodic review process.

42. Slovenia noted that the national report had been submitted in the context of the implementation of the peace agreement. It also noted the introduction of several bills to bring national legislation into conformity with international human rights instruments.

43. South Africa welcomed the measures taken by Mali to promote and protect human rights, including the adoption of the national human rights policy and action plan; the national transitional justice policy and action plan and the strategic framework for economic recovery and sustainable development.

44. The State of Palestine commended Mali for its efforts to strengthen human rights protection in the country and highlighted the importance of ensuring equal treatment and non-discrimination for women. It stated that it was important that the Government of Mali did not yield to the pressure of religious and conservative groups, in particular regarding revisions of the Personal and Family Code.

45. The Sudan commended Mali for its cooperation with the international community and engagement with the universal periodic review mechanism, despite the security situation, and for establishing a committee on follow-up to the recommendations made under the 2008 review.

46. Sweden welcomed the steps taken to increase the participation of women in decision-making. It noted, however, that impunity for perpetrators of human rights violations persisted despite the acceptance by Mali of recommendations made during the previous review to hold them accountable.

47. Switzerland noted that, despite the signature of the peace agreement in 2015, the internal conflict had intensified and the general situation had worsened, with continued human rights violations. Switzerland regretted that no legislation prohibiting female genital mutilation had been adopted and that, despite the fact that the death penalty had not been applied since 1980, new death sentences had been pronounced.

48. Timor-Leste welcomed the establishment of the Ministry of Human Rights and State Reform and the adoption of national policies on human rights and transitional justice. It noted in particular the State's efforts to eradicate female genital mutilation and the adoption of legislative measures to promote gender equality.

49. Togo, while acknowledging persistent challenges, welcomed the progress achieved by Mali since the submission of its report for the previous review, in particular the re-establishment of State authority on all national territory.

50. Tunisia commended the efforts made by Mali to implement the recommendations from the previous review, in particular regarding the establishment of a normative and institutional framework to protect human rights and the creation of the national human rights institution.

51. Turkey condemned the serious human rights violations committed by armed groups in northern Mali and appreciated the State's approach to the issue of internally displaced persons from that area. It welcomed the efforts made by Mali to strengthen democratic institutions and stated that it would continue to assist Mali in those efforts.

52. Ukraine welcomed the national policies on human rights and on transitional justice. It encouraged Mali to continue implementing, with the support of the international community, the peace agreement.

53. The United Kingdom noted that further progress was needed towards implementing the peace agreement and that investigations should be undertaken regarding human rights violations by armed forces. It underscored that public commitment by Mali to the elections in 2018 was needed and that more should be done to ban female genital mutilation and reopen schools in areas affected by conflict.

54. The United States of America expressed concern about the deterioration of the human rights situation throughout Mali, noting that many challenges stemmed from the failure to implement the Algiers peace agreement of 2015, and the failure of the authorities to prevent abuse perpetrated by terrorist organizations. It also expressed concern about allegations that serious human rights violations had been perpetrated by Malian security forces.

55. Uruguay commended Mali for the ratification of almost all of the international human rights instruments and for its efforts to eradicate female genital mutilation. It noted, however, that further efforts were needed to improve gender equality.

56. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela welcomed the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission and the implementation of socioeconomic development programmes to improve the realization of the right to health. In its view, the international community should continue to assist Mali in that regard. It called on Mali to continue consolidating peace and to strengthen its measures to support women and children.

57. Viet Nam welcomed the progress achieved in the protection and promotion of human rights in the current difficult context, in particular the adoption of socioeconomic development plans. It also welcomed the signature of the peace agreement, and called on all parties to implement the agreement. Viet Nam called on the international community to support Mali in its efforts.

58. Zambia commended Mali for the human rights training provided to law enforcement officials and judges, and welcomed the creation of the national action committee on the eradication of practices harmful to women and children and the adoption of the national programme to combat female genital mutilation.

59. Algeria welcomed the State's constructive engagement with the Human Rights Council, the progress achieved regarding the implementation of the Algiers peace agreement, the ratification of international human rights instruments and the adoption of a number of programmes, plans and sectorial strategies.

60. Angola welcomed the State's cooperation with human rights mechanisms, the adoption of national policies on human rights and transitional justice and the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission. It noted with concern the high number of displaced persons and the closure of many schools owing to the armed conflict.

61. Argentina commended Mali for its accession to the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. It also welcomed the measures adopted to implement the peace agreement.

62. Australia was concerned about the welfare of vulnerable children, at reports of killings of detainees, torture of suspects and mock executions and ill-treatment of prisoners, and that the death penalty remained part of the law and was a mandatory sentence for some crimes.

63. Austria highlighted the importance of strengthening the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary, and expressed concern about the persistence of discrimination against women and gender-based violence. Austria stated that victims should receive reparation.

64. Bangladesh commended Mali for its efforts to protect human rights despite the security challenges it faced. It welcomed measures taken to ensure the administration of justice. Bangladesh expressed confidence that Mali would be able to overcome the existing challenges and fulfil its national development plans with assistance from the international community.

65. Belgium expressed awareness of the challenges that Mali faced in the fight against terrorism and welcomed the commitment of the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel to respect human rights. Belgium also welcomed the adoption of the law on quotas for women in political and public life.

66. With regard to efforts to combat impunity, the delegation stated that, with the support of partners such as MINUSMA, a programme had been set up to restore justice in

the north of the country. Courts destroyed in the aftermath of the events of 2012 had been rebuilt, and justice was again being administered throughout the country. In addition, Mali was seeking to bring into operation the International Commission of Inquiry provided for in the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation.

67. The delegation noted that a permanent secretariat had been set up to monitor the implementation of the National Gender Policy and a high-level council on the National Gender Policy had also been established. In addition, the number of female communal councillors in Mali had risen from 9 per cent in 2009 to 25 per cent in 2016.

68. The delegation stated that a preliminary draft of a bill on gender-based violence was in the process of being adopted and that over 8,000 cutters in more than 12,000 villages had decided to stop performing female genital mutilation. In addition, a public awareness day was held every year on 6 February to encourage people to give up the practice of excision.

69. With regard to child soldiers, the delegation referred to a 2013 instrument for the prevention, protection and return to their families of child members of armed forces and related groups, the adoption of a document with the support of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the adoption of Act No. 2016-058 of 2016, the Wards of the State Act.

70. Act No. 21-2017 had amended the Labour Code to raise the minimum age of employment from 14 to 15.

71. Mali had adopted a law designating the National Human Rights Commission as its national mechanism for the prevention of torture. As such, the Commission would conduct regular visits to places of deprivation of liberty. Mali had also begun building new prisons to relieve overcrowding.

72. Benin expressed appreciation for the efforts taken by Mali to re-establish democracy and the rule of law. It urged Mali to take further action to promote and protect human rights and invited the international community to provide Mali with support in those efforts and for social and economic development.

73. The Plurinational State of Bolivia expressed appreciation for the efforts of Mali to bring about peace and reconciliation, including among State structures, public bodies, national human rights institutions and civil society organizations.

74. Botswana commended the continued efforts of Mali to strengthen democratic institutions and restore the constitutional order. It welcomed in particular the adoption of the law on the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission, as well as measures to protect the rights of children.

75. Brazil expressed its support for the establishment of the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission. It remained concerned about the persistent security challenges in the northern and central areas of the country and the increased number of attacks against civilians, and their negative impact on the enjoyment of human rights by women and children.

76. Burkina Faso welcomed the transitional justice process and the peace agreement. It urged all parties to redouble their efforts for their quick and integrated application. It called on the international community to support Mali with the technical assistance requested.

77. Cabo Verde welcomed the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission and the Ministry of Human Rights and State Reform, and the adoption of measures to promote gender equality. It urged the international community to continue supporting the implementation of the peace agreement.

78. Canada welcomed the creation of the National Human Rights Commission and the signing of the peace agreement. Canada asked how Mali planned to speed up the implementation of the agreement, and expressed concern about the impact that the deteriorating security situation in central Mali had on human rights.

79. Chad welcomed the creation of the National Human Rights Commission, which also served as the national preventive mechanism. It expressed appreciation for the strengthened efforts to eradicate female genital mutilation and for measures taken regarding economic

and social rights. Chad called on the international community to support the strengthening of national capacities in relation to security, justice and human rights.

80. Chile expressed appreciation for the adoption of the national policies on human rights and on transitional justice and for the establishment of the Ministry of Human Rights and State Reform. Chile urged Mali to continue to cooperate with the Independent Expert and OHCHR and to implement recommendations on human rights.

81. China welcomed the progress made by Mali towards peaceful reconciliation. It also welcomed efforts to promote and protect standards of living, health and education, to combat violence against women and human trafficking and to protect the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities.

82. Côte d'Ivoire welcomed the adoption of policies and plans of action on human rights and transitional justice and the establishment of the Ministry of Human Rights and State Reform. Côte d'Ivoire encouraged Mali to continue its reforms in order to address the persisting challenges to the promotion and protection of human rights.

83. Croatia welcomed the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission. It remained concerned about the indiscriminate attacks committed by armed extremist groups in northern and central Mali. Croatia called on Mali to strengthen its commitment to a peaceful resolution of the armed conflict while respecting human rights and the rule of law.

84. Cuba noted that, despite the terrorist attacks, Mali had made progress in combating human trafficking and implementing the strategic framework for economic recovery and sustainable development. Cuba urged the international community to continue supporting Mali in accordance with the country's capacity-building priorities.

85. Czechia thanked Mali for replying to its questions, acknowledged the progress made in some human rights areas and encouraged Mali to continue its efforts.

86. Denmark commended the progress made in the area of human rights training for Malian security forces and efforts to include provost marshals in field operations to ensure respect for international humanitarian law. Denmark was concerned about discrimination against women and girls and discriminatory provisions in the Persons and Family Code that allowed for the abuse of women and young girls by their husbands.

87. Ecuador commended Mali for its adoption in 2015 of the act by which it introduced measures to promote gender equality in access to appointed and elected office, in particular a minimum quota of 30 per cent for each gender.

88. Egypt commended the harmonization of Malian legislation with international instruments, the strengthening of the judicial system and transitional justice, the fight against impunity, the implementation of economic and social development projects, including on the rights to health, to education and to an adequate standard of living, and the State's cooperation with the Independent Expert.

89. Estonia invited Mali to reduce its backlog of reports that were pending submission to the treaty bodies and to consider issuing a standing invitation to all special procedure mandate holders. It commended the adoption of human rights policies and plans of action on human rights and transitional justice. Estonia called on Mali to investigate allegations of human rights violations and abuses and to hold perpetrators accountable.

90. Ethiopia welcomed the adoption of the national policy on human rights and the establishment of the Ministry of Human Rights and State Reform. It called on the international community to strengthen support to Mali, and for the capacities of State and non-State actors working in the human rights field to be strengthened.

91. France noted that even though freedoms were generally guaranteed in Mali, the situation of women, the dysfunctional judicial apparatus and certain types of behaviour by defence and security forces remained a concern. France expressed regret that most of the recommendations made in 2013 had not been fully implemented.

92. Gabon welcomed efforts by Mali to introduce a legislative and institutional human rights framework through the adoption of laws to improve the judiciary. It hailed measures

to protect the rights of women and children, in particular the establishment of a programme to combat female genital mutilation.

93. Georgia noted that the death penalty moratorium was respected and that no death sentences had been carried out. It congratulated Mali on the establishment of the Ministry of Human Rights and State Reform, hailing the adoption of a national policy on human rights and the bill on the protection of human rights defenders.

94. Germany commended the progress made by Mali in the field of transitional justice, as reflected by the operationalization of the regional offices of the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission. It welcomed the establishment of a national human rights institution.

95. Ghana lauded the State's continued commitment to respecting human rights. It welcomed the State's accession to international human rights instruments, and commended Mali for successfully harmonizing its national legislation with international instruments.

96. Haiti hailed the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission and the adoption of national policies on human rights and on transitional justice. It noted the creation of the Ministry of Human Rights and State Reform and welcomed the national programme to combat female genital mutilation.

97. Honduras welcomed the adoption of institutional and social reforms to implement the peace agreement, such as the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission and the creation of the Ministry of Human Rights and State Reform, and the national policies on human rights and on transitional justice.

98. Iceland acknowledged the difficult circumstances in Mali and the ongoing efforts to combat terrorism. However, it was deeply concerned about numerous allegations of human rights abuses. It underscored the responsibility of Mali to combat impunity, address those allegations and ensure equal access to justice.

99. India welcomed the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission. It commended Mali on the action plan to combat human trafficking and the related coordinating committee, and encouraged Mali to continue its efforts to eliminate female genital mutilation through educational campaigns and awareness-raising programmes.

100. Indonesia commended Mali on the successful establishment of its National Human Rights Commission in accordance with the Paris Principles.

101. Iraq commended Mali on its efforts to ratify international human rights instruments and implement international commitments, especially with regard to economic and social rights and the rights of the family.

102. Ireland welcomed the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission and the recent adoption of legislation granting a number of rights to human rights defenders. However, it noted that human rights abuses persisted and that the Act on torture was not fully in line with international standards. It remained concerned about continued reports of recruitment of child soldiers by armed groups.

103. Italy welcomed the commitment of Mali to aligning its national legislation with international instruments and its establishment of the Ministry of Human Rights and State Reform. It hailed the adoption in 2015 of an act establishing a gender-based quota of 30 per cent for elected and appointed office.

104. The Lao People's Democratic Republic welcomed the strategic framework for economic recovery and sustainable development, noting that it was aimed at promoting, on the basis of the Sustainable Development Goals set out in the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, inclusive and sustainable development, thereby reducing poverty and inequality, with a view to a unified and peaceful Mali.

105. Latvia welcomed the State's cooperation with the Independent Expert. It expressed regret, however, about the State's lack of cooperation with other special procedure mandate holders. Latvia expressed appreciation for efforts made by Mali to implement measures aimed at eliminating discrimination against women and promoting gender equality.

106. Luxembourg hailed the efforts made by Mali to promote respect for human rights, as reflected by the adoption of the national policies on human rights and on national justice. However, a number of challenges remained, especially in connection with protecting children's rights.

107. Madagascar welcomed the alignment of national legislation with international law. It hailed the establishment of the Ministry of Human Rights and State Reform, and expressed hope that similar efforts would continue. Madagascar called on the international community to support Mali in the implementation of recommendations emanating from the universal periodic review.

108. Maldives welcomed steps taken by Mali to promote and protect human rights, the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission and the commitment to end the practice of female genital mutilation. It hailed the adoption of legislation aimed at promoting gender equality and introducing measures for women to gain access to elected and appointed offices.

109. With regard to allegations of human rights violations committed by the security forces, the delegation stated that Mali had established a military court that had jurisdiction over all crimes of a military nature. In addition, special police units were deployed with units stationed in the field. With partners such as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Mali had also produced handbooks for military and security forces personnel on the law of armed conflict.

110. With regard to the protection of human rights defenders, the delegation pointed out that Mali had recently adopted Act No. 2018-003 of 12 January 2018, the Human Rights Defenders Act, which established specific protections for women human rights defenders and women human rights defenders with disabilities.

111. Mali had endorsed Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security and had developed a second action plan (for the period 2015–2017) relating to the participation of women in conflict management. That instrument had emphasized the importance of the full participation of women, on an equal footing with others, in the prevention and resolution of conflicts. A unit for the implementation of the plan and a monitoring committee had been set up.

112. The Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission had been established to help victims gain access to justice and means of redress. It had identified more than 7,000 victims since 2014. The Commission had branches in all the country's regions but Kidal (as a result of the insecurity there), and there were plans for the implementation of a programme to provide reparations for the harm that victims had suffered.

113. An independent high communications authority had been established to ensure respect for freedom of the press, and investigations into the murders and disappearances of journalists had been launched.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

114. **The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue listed below have been examined by Mali and enjoy the support of Mali:**

114.1 **Adopt an open, merit-based process when selecting national candidates for United Nations treaty body elections (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

114.2 **Step up its cooperation with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council by responding positively to the pending visit requests and to consider extending a standing invitation to all special procedure mandate holders (Latvia);**

114.3 **Extend cooperation to all special procedure mandate holders (Paraguay);**

114.4 **Improve its cooperation with special procedure mandate holders (Burkina Faso);**

114.5 **Continue its cooperation with the United Nations, other international organizations and human rights mechanisms to overcome remaining constraints and challenges (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**

114.6 **Accelerate efforts to re-establish State authority and the rule of law in all areas of the country, including the northern and central regions (Norway);**

114.7 **Continue bringing the national legislation into line with international human rights standards (Ukraine);**

114.8 **Continue strengthening capacity-building for State and non-State actors working in the human rights field (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**

114.9 **Establish as a priority an effective torture prevention mechanism, in accordance with Mali's obligations under the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Zambia);**

114.10 **Strengthen the work of the National Human Rights Commission (Sudan);**

114.11 **Strengthen the capacities of the National Human Rights Commission (Togo);**

114.12 **Develop a strategy and allocate the resources necessary to ensure that the national human rights institution fully complies with the Paris Principles (Germany);**

114.13 **Continue strengthening national human rights institutions and mechanisms (Nepal);**

114.14 **Provide the necessary support to the National Human Rights Commission with a view to making it fully compliant with the Paris Principles and allowing it to acquire A status (Morocco);**

114.15 **Strengthen the capacity of State and non-State institutions in dealing with human rights challenges by providing human rights education and training and establishing bilateral cooperation and assistance agreements with other countries (Indonesia);**

114.16 **Investigate allegations of human rights violations committed during the continued crisis in Mali by all parties, including Malian defence and security forces (Norway);**

114.17 **Take the responsibility to combat impunity, address the allegations of human rights abuses committed by the security and defence forces and provide access to justice for all (Poland);**

114.18 **Step up its efforts to ensure all the necessary means to fight against impunity and guarantee that perpetrators of human rights violations are punished (Portugal);**

114.19 **Investigate and adjudicate human rights violations and criminal offences by members of its defence and security forces (Republic of Korea);**

114.20 **Take all necessary measures to ensure impartial and effective investigations by civilian authorities into allegations of crimes under international law, including international human rights law, in order to identify and prosecute those responsible, while ensuring fair trials (Sweden);**

114.21 **Continue the efforts to combat impunity and establish transitional justice in order to achieve reconciliation, security and stability (Tunisia);**

114.22 **Ensure that the perpetrators of serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law are held accountable (Ukraine);**

114.23 **Take action to prosecute security forces involved in human rights violations (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

114.24 **Investigate credible allegations of human rights abuses and violations, and hold anyone found responsible to account (United States of America);**

114.25 **Deepen the measures taken to investigate and sanction allegations of arbitrary execution, inhuman and degrading treatment, torture and illegal detention (Argentina);**

114.26 **Investigate and monitor all cases of alleged torture, killings and ill-treatment of prisoners, and establish measures to ensure the perpetrators are held to account (Australia);**

114.27 **Expedite all the necessary measures to combat the impunity of perpetrators of serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, and ensure victims' access to truth, justice and reparations (Austria);**

114.28 **Implement its commitment to launch formal investigations into recent allegations of human rights abuses by the Malian security forces in Mali (Canada);**

114.29 **Ensure access to justice for victims of the conflict and ensure accountability by bringing to justice all perpetrators of abuses and violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, including sexual violence, and by accelerating the work of the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission (Canada);**

114.30 **Take action to investigate impartially, in a timely manner and thoroughly allegations of torture and extrajudicial execution by military forces, and ensure the accountability of perpetrators as well as rehabilitation and reparations for victims (Czechia);**

114.31 **Ensure that alleged past and ongoing human rights violations by members of the Malian security forces are independently and thoroughly investigated, prosecuted and adjudicated (Denmark);**

114.32 **Ensure accountability and reparations in order to avoid situations of impunity given possible cases of crimes against humanity, war crimes or other serious violations of human rights (Ecuador);**

114.33 **Put an end to human rights violations committed by defence and security forces by systematically carrying out investigations and handing down penalties (France);**

114.34 **Investigate and prosecute all allegations of human rights violations, including those committed by security forces, and introduce a mechanism of internal oversight for the security forces (Germany);**

114.35 **Further engage in the fight against impunity, ensuring that perpetrators of serious human rights violations are prosecuted and that victims have access to justice and reparations (Italy);**

114.36 **Strengthen mechanisms for accountability of the Malian defence and security forces to act in line with international humanitarian law (Netherlands);**

114.37 **Update the legal framework regarding impunity and conclude the judicial proceedings against alleged perpetrators of serious human rights violations (Mexico);**

114.38 **Increase facilities dedicated to the victims of conflict-related violence (Iraq);**

114.39 **Consider developing a comprehensive strategy for security sector reform to allow for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of**

combatants, as well as redeploy the reconstituted Malian defence and security forces across the country (Ghana);

114.40 **Conduct awareness-raising campaigns to eliminate the stigmatization of women seeking recourse through the justice system (Timor-Leste);**

114.41 **Take measures to accelerate the investigation of all complaints regarding sexual violence and quickly reach a judgment of the suspects and the compensation of the victims (France);**

114.42 **Continue efforts in implementing the agreement for peace and reconciliation in Mali (South Africa);**

114.43 **Establish an international commission of inquiry as provided for in the Algiers peace agreement (Sweden);**

114.44 **Respect all its commitments made in the framework of the implementation of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali emanating from the Algiers process, with a view to/for a peaceful and lasting settlement of the crisis (Chad);**

114.45 **Continue the efforts to promote the peace and reconciliation process to achieve security and stability (China);**

114.46 **Take steps aimed at fully implementing the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali (Namibia);**

114.47 **Put an end to the impunity of perpetrators of human rights violations, in particular in northern Mali, including perpetrators of sexual violence against women, and protect the victims against stigmatization (Burkina Faso);**

114.48 **Fully implement the Algiers peace accord, including by providing meaningful decentralization of central government authority and carrying out demobilization, disarmament and reintegration programmes (United States of America);**

114.49 **Continue efforts to consolidate peace and national reconciliation throughout the country (Algeria);**

114.50 **Implement the peace agreement of 2015 and ensure the necessary resources for the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission to accomplish its mandate (Brazil);**

114.51 **Take the necessary measures to ensure respect for human rights in all action taken to combat terrorism, and allow the competent organizations, such as the International Committee of the Red Cross or OHCHR, access to persons suspected of terrorism (Belgium);**

114.52 **Follow advocacy efforts to prevent and avoid community violence (Morocco);**

114.53 **Take all measures to ensure compliance by its armed forces with international human rights standards, in particular the absolute ban on torture (Ireland);**

114.54 **Improve conditions in detention centres (Zambia);**

114.55 **Strengthen measures to reduce overcrowding in prisons (Angola);**

114.56 **Address and improve the state of its prisons with a view to ensuring that prisoners are incarcerated in line with international human rights standards (Netherlands);**

114.57 **Adopt laws defining and criminalizing human trafficking and slavery, in particular of women and girls (Republic of Korea);**

114.58 **Continue the efforts to combat human trafficking and protect women and children from sexual exploitation (Tunisia);**

114.59 **Continue the implementation of the operational plan of its programme for judicial development (Sudan);**

114.60 **Reduce considerably the number of detainees in pretrial detention and ensure their judgement within a reasonable period of time (France);**

114.61 **Adopt the national strategy for the modernization of civil registration procedures (Côte d'Ivoire);**

114.62 **Introduce sufficient transparency measures in the parliamentary and presidential elections to take place in 2018 (Republic of Korea);**

114.63 **Continue pursuing the public policies focused on socioeconomic development and promotion of human rights (Senegal);**

114.64 **Continue to implement socioeconomic development projects, which would further intensify the progress already made (State of Palestine);**

114.65 **Continue strengthening its infrastructure and social programmes for the most vulnerable groups, especially women and children (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

114.66 **Continue to promote its economic and social sustainable development to lay a solid foundation for its people to enjoy all human rights (China);**

114.67 **Take the necessary measures to fight poverty (Algeria);**

114.68 **Redouble its effort to mobilize national and international resources dedicated to poverty reduction (Indonesia);**

114.69 **Promote the return of refugees who left the country during the conflict, ensuring their security and protecting their rights, through measures aimed at their effective reintegration into the economic, social and cultural context (Ecuador);**

114.70 **Develop strategies to mitigate the impacts of desertification and lack of drinking water on the rights of vulnerable groups such as women and children (Viet Nam);**

114.71 **Strengthen vocational training programmes to further promote the integration of youth into the labour market (Viet Nam);**

114.72 **Continue efforts to strengthen the education and health sector, targeting primarily the vulnerable population, in particular, children and women (Senegal);**

114.73 **Continue efforts in providing special State assistance to patients living with HIV and AIDS (South Africa);**

114.74 **Do its utmost to safeguard the fundamental rights of all citizens, regardless of gender and ethnicity, in line with relevant international human rights instruments, including the right to education (Norway);**

114.75 **Take all necessary measures to guarantee the right to education in emergency and conflict situations and to ensure that education is accessible to all (Timor-Leste);**

114.76 **Establish strategies to support and strengthen the progress recently achieved in the field of education (Viet Nam);**

114.77 **Continue efforts to promote the right to education and provide education to all without discrimination (Egypt);**

114.78 **Strengthen the education system and increase access to education (Iraq);**

114.79 **Continue to improve access to education for all Malians from an early age (Maldives);**

114.80 **Find alternatives to the closure of schools due to security reasons in order to maintain teaching in cooperation with teachers' unions and local authorities (France);**

114.81 **Adopt all measures necessary to ensure the right to education in emergencies and conflict situations, and ensure that education is available to all, in particular migrants, refugees and asylum-seeking children (Honduras);**

114.82 **Continue working towards achieving reforms and commitments that allow it to improve redistribution and ownership of land, taking into account ancestral practices and protecting the small farmers (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**

114.83 **Continue to enhance its efforts to promote and protect the rights of children and women (Mauritius);**

114.84 **Redouble efforts to promote gender equality and women's empowerment, in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Brazil);**

114.85 **Work further on the protection of the rights of women to ensure their full respect (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**

114.86 **Continue its efforts to promote gender equality and combat gender-based violence against women (Nepal);**

114.87 **Continue the efforts to combat discrimination against women and achieve gender equality (Tunisia);**

114.88 **Continue its actions to combat discrimination against women (Côte d'Ivoire);**

114.89 **Continue efforts to fight discrimination against women in law and in practice (Egypt);**

114.90 **Harmonize its legislation to eliminate discrimination against women (Austria);**

114.91 **Strengthen measures in protecting women's rights and ensuring their equal pay for work of equal value (South Africa);**

114.92 **Expedite the revision of the Labour Code and ensure that it guarantees substantive equality of women and men (Zambia);**

114.93 **Reduce the gender pay gap (Iraq);**

114.94 **Continue working towards achieving equality and political and economic inclusion for women, particularly in rural areas (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**

114.95 **Strengthen efforts to fight the stigmatization of women and children subjected to forced and early marriage, sexual slavery, rape and torture committed by extremist groups (Poland);**

114.96 **Redouble efforts to significantly reduce and eventually eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women and children (Cabo Verde);**

114.97 **Step up efforts to combat all forms of violence against women and girls (Georgia);**

114.98 **Adopt legislative and policy measures to combat sexual violence, including forced and early marriage, sexual slavery, rape and torture committed against women by extremist groups and members of the armed forces, as well as the impunity of the perpetrators (Honduras);**

114.99 **Expedite efforts to adopt legislation to combat gender-based violence and establish a national programme to combat the sexual exploitation of women and girls (Sierra Leone);**

114.100 **Undertake awareness campaigns in order to end the social stigmatization affecting women who have been victims of rape or sexual abuse and provide effective access to justice for all women and girls (Chile);**

114.101 **Enact adequate measures to ensure medical, psychosocial and judicial support for the victims of serious human rights violations, in particular former child soldiers and victims of sexual crimes, including conflict-related sexual violence (Slovenia);**

114.102 **Establish a mechanism to assist victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation (Togo);**

114.103 **Strengthen the implementation of legislation and policies aimed at ending harmful traditional practices, in particular child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation (Rwanda);**

114.104 **Take concrete steps towards the implementation of programmes and policies aimed at eliminating practices that are harmful to women's and girls' health, including excision (Namibia);**

114.105 **Enhance efforts to prevent and combat all forms of violence against women, including female genital mutilation (Italy);**

114.106 **Continue developing and implementing public policies to prevent, address, punish and eradicate all forms of violence against women, including female genital mutilation and forced and early marriage (Paraguay);**

114.107 **Continue its awareness-raising efforts to promote the abandonment of the practice of female genital mutilation (Gabon);**

114.108 **Continue efforts to combat early marriage (Tunisia);**

114.109 **Continue efforts to combat and protect women against all forms of sexual violence, including child, early and forced marriage (Maldives);**

114.110 **Conduct awareness campaigns to reduce child and early marriage (Chile);**

114.111 **Implement measures which promote gender equality and ensure better access by women to decision-making positions (Sierra Leone);**

114.112 **Take the necessary measures to ensure effective follow-up of the law on quotas for women's participation (Belgium);**

114.113 **Implement a national strategy for the increased participation and representation of women in general elections (Czechia);**

114.114 **Ensure the full and meaningful participation of women in all political processes in Mali, particularly processes regarding the Algiers peace agreement (Sweden);**

114.115 **Bring about the effective participation of women in all stages of the peace, stabilization and reconstruction process in Mali (Chile);**

114.116 **Adopt the declaration on safety in schools and commit to implement the guidelines for the protection of schools and universities against their military use during conflicts (Switzerland);**

114.117 **Take steps to better protect the rights of the child and establish, resource and monitor specialized agencies to promote and protect the rights of vulnerable children (Australia);**

114.118 **Continue intensifying its efforts to put an end to child labour within the framework of the national programme to combat child labour through the dissemination of laws that prohibit it (Cuba);**

114.119 **Take steps to review and strengthen the legislative framework to ensure that the worst forms of child labour are criminalized and effectively prosecuted (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

114.120 **Strictly prohibit child labour and raise the minimum age of employment (Zambia);**

114.121 **Take decisive and adequate measures to end the practice of forced and compulsory recruitment of children by armed groups (Poland);**

114.122 **Adopt the necessary measures, with the support of MINUSMA, to prevent the occupation of schools by armed groups and establish protection mechanisms to prevent the forced recruitment of children and adolescents (Mexico);**

114.123 **Enact and enforce laws to criminalize the recruitment of child soldiers and slavery (United States of America);**

114.124 **Strengthen efforts to ensure the protection and well-being of children, especially with regard to the recruitment and reintegration of child soldiers as well as education (Austria);**

114.125 **End the forced recruitment of children into active roles in armed conflict (Botswana);**

114.126 **Take steps to protect children from recruitment as child soldiers and ensure long-term rehabilitation and reintegration programmes for those demobilized (Czechia);**

114.127 **Strengthen efforts to prevent and combat the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict and ensure their reintegration in society (Italy);**

114.128 **Take all necessary measures to put an end to the practice of recruitment and use of child soldiers by armed groups and take measures to allow for their social reinsertion (Luxembourg);**

114.129 **Support the socioeconomic reinsertion of children and youth living on the street (Luxembourg);**

114.130 **Continue to improve the legal framework for the protection of persons with disabilities (Haiti);**

114.131 **Adopt concrete measures in favour of migrants and asylum seekers (Haiti);**

114.132 **Finalize the draft law on the protection of human rights defenders (Burkina Faso);**

114.133 **Pass the draft law for the recognition and protection of human rights defenders (Germany).**

115. **The following recommendations will be examined by Mali, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-eighth session of the Human Rights Council:**

115.1 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of death penalty, and take appropriate measures to abolish the death penalty (Switzerland);**

115.2 **Consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of death penalty, and commute death sentences to prison sentences (Uruguay);**

115.3 **Revive consultations on the proposed bill for the abolition of the death penalty and consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Namibia);**

115.4 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Croatia) (Montenegro); Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Estonia); Take measures to ratify the**

Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Georgia);

115.5 **Consider fully abolishing the death penalty (Italy);**

115.6 **Abolish fully the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Portugal);**

115.7 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Portugal);**

115.8 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Portugal); Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Croatia);**

115.9 **Revise mining codes, policies and practices in order to meet the expectations of local communities and invest the generated revenue in infrastructure programmes (Haiti);**

115.10 **Take measures to introduce a de jure moratorium on executions and take concrete steps towards the total abolition of the death penalty (Rwanda);**

115.11 **Formally abolish the death penalty (Australia);**

115.12 **Consider abolishing the death penalty (Mozambique);**

115.13 **Implement the draft legislation aimed at decriminalizing press offences, which is necessary progress in the promotion of free media in Mali (Austria);**

115.14 **Decriminalize defamation and place it in a civil code in accordance with international standards (Estonia);**

115.15 **Eliminate all discriminatory provisions and practices against women and girls contained in the Personal and Family Code, including those relating to inheritance and the obligation to obey the husband (Paraguay);**

115.16 **Reassess the negative implications of the discriminatory provisions included in the preliminary draft of the revised Personal and Family Code that could prove detrimental and a step backward for Malian women, so as to ensure that the rights and full freedom of Malian women are realized, free from any discrimination whatsoever (State of Palestine);**

115.17 **Continue to take measures to ensure gender equality, and make adequate revisions to the provisions of the Persons and Family Code that are inconsistent with international standards on women's rights (Turkey);**

115.18 **Eliminate all provisions and discriminatory practices against women and girls from the Personal and Family Code, and reinforce the prohibition, by law, of harmful cultural and traditional practices against girls and women (Mexico);**

115.19 **Ensure that all discriminatory provisions against women contained in the Family Code and the Labour Code are repealed (Burkina Faso);**

115.20 **Reinstate in the Persons and Family Code the wording of article 25 of the 2009 version of the Code, reading that "The international treaties and agreements regarding the protection of women and children, duly ratified by Mali and published are applicable (Denmark);**

115.21 **Repeal all discriminatory provisions of the Persons and Family Code in order to adopt a new comprehensive framework to fight discrimination (Honduras);**

115.22 **Undertake, without delay, the reform necessary to eliminate all discriminatory provisions and practices against women and girls contained in the Persons and Family Code (Iceland);**

115.23 **Repeal all discriminatory provisions, including those in the Personal and Family Code (Latvia);**

115.24 **Enact comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation and conduct wide public debate on the importance of introducing equal rights for women and men (Montenegro);**

115.25 **Adopt legislation against gender discrimination, that, inter alia, will prohibit all forms of gender-based violence, including female genital mutilation, and promote and protect the human rights of women and girls in Mali (Slovenia);**

115.26 **Criminalize female genital mutilation to significantly reduce the proportion of the population that are victims of such acts; strengthen awareness raising campaigns, in particular in partnership with religious leaders, and implement actions to provide for economic and social reconversion for women who practice female genital mutilation (France);**

115.27 **Continue its efforts to introduce a law banning all forms of gender-based violence (Switzerland);**

115.28 **Work to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls that remain in the Persons and Family Code (Togo);**

115.29 **Rapidly adopt a law aimed at combating gender-based violence, in compliance with its obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Belgium);**

115.30 **Ensure that the fight against discrimination against women and gender-based violence are backed up by legislation (Madagascar);**

115.31 **Adopt, before the next universal periodic review cycle, a legislative ban on female genital mutilation and domestic violence and conduct awareness-raising campaigns in order to eliminate these forms of violence in practice (Czechia);**

115.32 **Adopt legislation outlawing all forms of gender-based violence, including the traditional practice of female genital mutilation (India);**

115.33 **Continue the necessary measures to prohibit any form of female genital mutilation, in accordance with the recommendations formulated by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on the Rights of the Child; and implement actions to eliminate any other form of discrimination based on gender or violent traditional practices against women (Uruguay);**

115.34 **Criminalize female genital mutilation (Paraguay);**

115.35 **Finalize the bill that prohibits the practice of female genital mutilation, which can concern up to 90 per cent of girls (Poland);**

115.36 **Deepen the measures to develop a comprehensive plan against the harmful cultural practices and traditions that persist against women, in particular by adopting a law that prohibits female genital mutilation (Argentina);**

115.37 **Adopt legislation outlawing all forms of the traditional practice of female genital mutilation and finalize the review of the Criminal Code in order to include provisions punishing violence against women (Botswana);**

115.38 **Finalize the draft law prohibiting and punishing female genital mutilation (Burkina Faso);**

115.39 **Accelerate legislative measures leading to a strict prohibition and punishment of female genital mutilation and early marriage (Cabo Verde);**

115.40 **Introduce legislation to ban female genital mutilation (Canada);**

115.41 **Ensure the enactment and implementation of legislation to criminalize female genital mutilation, in addition to the design of public policies and concrete actions aimed at fully eradicating this practice (Ecuador);**

115.42 **Accelerate the process of adopting a draft law against gender-based violence, including female genital mutilation (Gabon);**

115.43 **Adopt criminal laws prohibiting all forms of female genital mutilation and cutting and initiate a public debate addressing harmful traditional practices (Germany);**

115.44 **Adopt legislation to prohibit all forms of female genital mutilation and cutting (Iceland);**

115.45 **Adopt legislation to ban all forms of genital mutilation and ensure that this practice be punished (Luxembourg);**

115.46 **Adopt criminal laws explicitly prohibiting female genital mutilation (Norway);**

115.47 **Set the minimum age of marriage at 21 for boys and girls and raise public awareness of this law, in particular among women and girls (Haiti);**

115.48 **Establish the same age of marriage for boys and girls as 18, and strengthen efforts aimed at ending child, early and forced marriage (Sierra Leone);**

115.49 **Adopt a legal mechanism to combat child and early marriage (Angola);**

115.50 **Amend existing legislation to raise the minimum age of consent for marriage to 18 years for women, as provided for in the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (the Maputo Protocol) (Canada);**

115.51 **Repeal the Persons and Family Code to bring it into line with the constitutional prohibition of gender-based discrimination, including by granting equal succession rights to women and girls and raising the minimum age of marriage for girls to 18 years (Germany);**

115.52 **Raise the minimum age of marriage for girls to 18 years, without exception, in line with the Maputo Protocol (Iceland);**

115.53 **Align the minimum age of marriage for girls with international standards to 18 as opposed to 16, in order to eradicate early and forced marriage for girls (Namibia);**

115.54 **Increase the minimum age for marriage of girls to 18 years of age, in line with the Maputo Protocol (Luxembourg).**

116. **The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below have been examined by Mali and have been noted by Mali:**

116.1 **Extend a standing invitation to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council (Portugal);**

116.2 **Issue an open standing invitation to the special procedures of the Human Rights Council (Ukraine);**

116.3 **Consider the possibility of extending a standing invitation to all United Nations special procedure mandate holders (Georgia);**

116.4 **Issue and implement a standing invitation to the thematic human rights special procedures of the Human Rights Council (Czechia);**

116.5 **Redouble its efforts to put an end to traditional and harmful practices, such as child and forced marriage, polygamy, humiliating and degrading practices and forced feeding (Honduras);**

116.6 **Immediately demobilize all children being used by the government-supported militias (Iceland);**

116.7 **Take all feasible measures to protect children from recruitment by State-allied and non-State armed groups (Ireland).**

117. **All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Mali was headed by Kadidia Coulibaly Sangaré, Minister of Human Rights, and composed of the following members:

- M. Abraham Bengaly, Secrétaire général du Ministère des droits de l'homme;
- M. Zoumana Diarra, Conseiller technique, Ministère des droits de l'homme;
- M. Salifou Maiga, Conseiller technique, Ministère de la solidarité et de l'action humanitaire;
- M. Modibo Sacko, Conseiller technique, Ministère de la justice;
- Commandant Malado Keita, Conseillère Technique, Ministère de la réconciliation nationale et de la cohésion sociale;
- M. Bakary Doumbia, Ministère des affaires étrangères et de la coopération internationale;
- Lt Col. Mamadou Daba Coulibaly, Ministère de la sécurité et de la protection civile;
- Mme Sophie Tounkara Soucko, Ministère de la promotion de la femme, de l'enfant et de la famille;
- M. Mamadou Diakité Expert, ancien ministre.